

Northlands

IN FOCUS

Monthly newsletter for our friends and business partners!

From our Director

As we enter the first week of February and move deeper into 2010, I have taken the time to pause and reflect on the transformations at Northlands over the past year.

We have much to be thankful for as increasing numbers of students have achieved their goals. 38 students have transitioned from our program to Advanced Training across the country. More advanced equipment and new certifications are constantly made available to students at Northlands.

Two career technical training areas (carpentry and welding) now boast NCCER certified instructors who are able to help students achieve the high level of competencies required for this nationally recognized certification.

Reflecting on the past is best used when we take the opportunity to learn from our mistakes and enhance the things we do well. Our job is best served when we treat

students with Respect and Care (taken from the company name ResCare) earning their trust, and building the confidence that their best interest is what guides our actions. This helps each student develop their character and integrity, and allows for success in the career path of their choosing.

Job Corps brings hope and opportunities to our youth.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to the success of the students and those that help meet our mission to train and develop future leaders.



**Tony Staynings, Director of
Northlands Job Corps Academy**



We did it! 2009 ResCare Community Service Challenge!

Northlands Job Corps Academy beat the 2009 ResCare Community Service Challenge !

Every year, ResCare, Inc. invites all the Job Corps centers they run to participate in the Community Service Challenge.

In order to beat the challenge, a Job Corps center or academy has to participate in more than 10 community service projects. In 2009, Northlands initiated and participated in over 30 community service projects, and we continue to raise the bar, especially with more and more *green* initiatives and projects initiated by our students and the Green Committee.

If you have any suggestions for projects we should get involved in during 2010, we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you, mentors!



Every year the country waits to see if that famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, will see his shadow and launch us into another six weeks of winter. To honor this American tradition, Groundhog Job Shadow Day was held on **February 02, 2010**.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day gives youth across America the chance to “shadow” workplace mentors as they experience a day on the job.

Northlands Job Corps Academy was able to find excellent mentors for over 40 students!

Employers who were willing to provide the job shadowing experience for our students are: Addison County Independent, Bixby Memorial Free Library, Sessler Wrecking VT-NY Bridge Construction, Middlebury College, Wanamaker Restoration, Girtlington Garage, Shea Motor Co, Vergennes Union Elementary School, Mainly Metals, Vergennes Animal Hospital, Direct Auto Body, Alden Place Residential, Executive Car Care, Blondin Brothers and Auto Parts Plus. Students also shadowed some of Northlands’ senior staff.

We thank all the mentors for providing outstanding guidance to our students!

All youth workers! Join us at the Admissions and Suitability Training

Job Corps has been around for 45 years, and many requirements for admissions have changed over time. The biggest recent changes happened when Regional Minimum Standards were introduced. Youth workers and counselors who are referring youth to our program feel they need more accurate information on who to refer, what to expect and how to best prepare the youth for a successful career at Job Corps.

To guide you through the eligibility criteria and the admissions process, provide materials and answer any questions, we are organizing Training on Admissions and Suitability.

Training sessions are organized on request for any agency, school or program working for youth. Participation is voluntary and free of charge. Lunch is provided, as well as refreshments - compliments of our Culinary Arts Class!

Contact us to schedule a training with our counselors!

Ralph J. Jackman (1924—2010)



Ralph J. Jackman, a supporter of Northlands, member of our Community Relations Council, a man of endurance and an absolute role model for our youth, passed away peacefully January 02, 2010.

A true Vermonter, Ralph served his country and his community all his life. He was twice president of the VT State Firefighters Association, president and life-time member of the Addison County Firefighters Association, member of the American Legion Post 14, the Addison County Eagles, a charter member of the Vergennes Rotary for 56 years, an organizer of Meals on Wheels, and an active servant to St. Peter's Catholic Church.

In recognition of his many years of service to his community and his Fire Department, his achievements were read into the Congressional Record in June 2008 by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders.

We all will miss Ralph, his positive spirit and unmatched willingness to initiate and participate in projects, all while helping others.

Students and staff of Northlands Job Corps Academy join many families of Addison County in expressing our sincere condolences to the family of Ralph J. Jackman, and also to his extended family - the Vergennes Fire Department.

Former students, youth workers, teachers, youth thinking about joining Job Corps... look up Northlands on FaceBook!

We asked: Where were you and what mattered to you while you were at Northlands?

Tamara Gentry: When I was at Job Corps, I wanted to be treated with respect by the staff and peers, not as a delinquent since I wasn't. I went to Job Corps because I had no place else to go, no money for college, and wanted skills to get a better job. I went to Northlands for culinary, saw I.T. and went there instead. The instructor quit, and in transition of finding the teacher's replacement I found a new passion- welding. I also helped in maintenance and logistics with shipping; receiving; filling dorm, office, & trade orders; as well as secretarial work. An unappreciated, undervalued position, but not unappreciated by maintenance and logistics. I did it because I enjoyed it, it helped time go by, and impacted my skills. What really mattered then, was that I finished welding and found a job outside of Job Corps.

Chyanne R Hendee: I was co-captain in dorm 17 for over 5 months and I was in culinary. I was there for the full two years. Not only did I graduate from there, I met the love of my life and also made money, and friends I still talk to today. I was also the project manager for the last to month for the honor dorm.

Shanna Lea Pottle: I was in Dorm 18 for 2 years. I took business there. I graduated in 2004. I meet a lot of my friends up there and I am still friends with them today. Job Corps to me was a big change in my life. It was a lot of fun. Wish I could back but I am too old to go there. I miss Job Corps a lot. That is were I got my license; I was very happy that I got it there. Job Corps is great.

Will Wilson: I was manger of Dorm 22 and the SGA president and what mattered to me was getting the students at Northlands what they wanted. When I was there I helped start the student store.

Tammy Robarge: Shortly after I graduated high school in 1993 I went to Job Corps. Since I was in Foster Care I considered Job Corps like more of a holding place since I had know where else to go, and it was home to me I was TAMMY-TAM, everyone had my back. At every awards assembly I would always get the Cleanest Room Of The Month. When I was at Job Corps I got my Driver's Permit. I was in Dorm 18 for 2 years along with completing the Business Course and some of the Basic Courses I took, I finally graduated in 1995 without giving up and with me being persistent and proud of it as well. I left Job Corps with many memories and good friends as well!



Northlands in Focus is the newsletter of the Northlands Job Corps Academy.

For suggestions, questions and comments, please contact Ms. Ivana Lawrence at (802) 877-0158 or send an e-mail to lawrence.ivana@jobcorps.gov

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<http://northlands.jobcorps.gov>

Farm To Table

Annette Paquette, the Purchasing Agent of Northlands, and Deb Lane, our Cafeteria Supervisor, participated in the Addison County Local Food Summit.

The goal of this meeting that brought together around 200 people from Addison County was to present the information on locally grown food, and explore cooperation with local schools who would start buying food from our local farmers. The working groups were discussing issues such as growing the local infrastructure, marketing, producing and buying more local food.

Northlands work under strict Federal guidelines and regulations, and can only purchase USDA and GAP certified food products, that usually come from larger companies. However, some local growers like Spring Valley Produce and Black River Produce are GAP certifies, and Northlands purchases from these vendors.

Northlands is committed to working with local businesses!